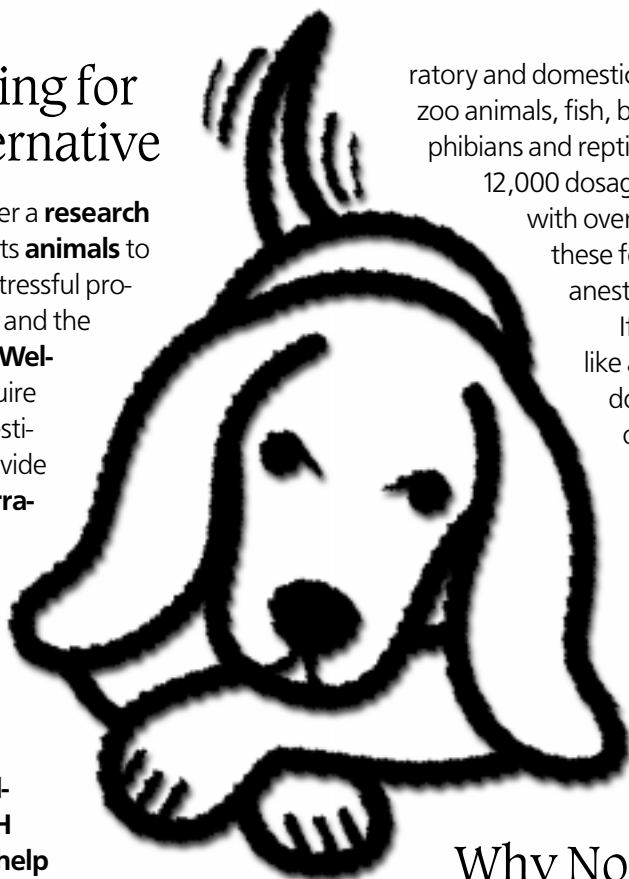## Searching for an Alternative

Whenever a **research study** subjects **animals** to painful or distressful procedures, NIH and the U.S. **Animal Welfare Act** require Principal Investigators to provide a written **narrative** of the methods and sources used to **verify** that **alternatives** are **not available**. The **NIH Library can help** researchers fulfill this requirement by assisting them in the search for alternatives.

Among the resources the Library has available is **PREX**, a **database** produced by the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. PREX provides access to a variety of **animal-related information resources**. In addition to AGRICOLA, PREX covers several unique resources such as **Biological Values**, Alternatives, Strain description and sources, **Transgenic** Animals, Vet Doser and Veterinary **Dissertations** and Practice. These resources give biological **reference values** of lab animals, hematological and clinical chemistry values with literature references and statistical parameters.

PREX also contains information on more than **800 drugs** for **use in** over **130 animal species** including all laboratory and domestic animals, zoo animals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles. Over 12,000 dosages are listed with over 4500 of these for pain and anesthesia.

If you would like a search done in PREX, or need other assistance with an animal alternatives search, please call 496-2184.

Why No ASM E-Journals?

In recent weeks, the Library has received several **questions and comments** from NIH staff about the fact that **American Society for Microbiology** (ASM) **journals** are **no longer accessible** from the Library's Home Page. **In 1998**, the NIH Library was able to provide NIH staff with **free trial access** to the following 10 ASM journals:

➡ Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy
➡ Applied and Environmental Microbiology
➡ Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology
➡ Clinical Microbiology Reviews
➡ Infection and Immunity
➡ Journal of Bacteriology
➡ Journal of Clinical Microbiology
➡ Journal of Virology
➡ Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews
➡ Molecular and Cellular Biology

Despite the fact that these journals are of great interest to a large number of NIH staff, the NIH Library **no longer** includes them among its electronic journal offerings because of the **restrictive** nature of ASM's **institutional license terms**. The ASM license expressly **prohibits access** outside the building in which the Library is located. Consequently, **only** NIH staff located in **Building 10**, or who come to the Library will be able to **access** the **electronic** versions of these **journals**. This defeats the purpose of making them available electronically and does not justify the added expense.

If you have comments about this, call 6-1080, or you may wish to **contact ASM** directly and question their decision to restrict access to these electronic journals.

Word Available in Reading Room

Microsoft **Word** has been **added** to three **personal computers** and one **Macintosh** in the NIH Library **Reading Room**. You can use this software to **edit or reformat** your downloaded **searches** before saving them to disc or **sending the results** to your **email address** via the Internet. Please **bring** your own **discs**, if you wish to save your results.

Moving Time!

It's time to move from ELHILL **to PubMed** and **Internet Grateful Med** for all MEDLINE searching. The National Library of Medicine (NLM) announced it will **"unplug" ELHILL** sometime this year. Facing the inevitable, **in April** the NIH Library will **cancel all MEDLINE codes** it has registered for NIH staff. Doing it sooner rather than later will **save** the Library **thousands of dollars** that can be used to fund other **online initiatives**, such as reference materials and full-text journals.

Since 1993, the NIH Library has **paid NLM** to provide NIH staff with **unlimited access** to NLM's databases. This did not change with the announcement that PubMed was available to everyone at no cost. As long as NIH staff use the MEDLINE codes issued by the NIH Library to **search** in **command language**, or **maintain an SDI profile**, the NIH Library is obligated to pay NLM for the service.

Now that virtually **all** of **NLM's databases** are **on the Web**, maintaining this expensive option no longer seems necessary or desirable. For a list of NLM database web sites see http://igm.nlm.nih.gov.

If you currently use **Loansome Doc** with your MEDLINE code, please note that you need to register for a **new user id and password**. See the NIH Library's Home Page for registration instructions at http://tendon.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/loansome_login.

Several **alternatives** are available to NLM's **SDI** service. (See the August-September issue of this newsletter.) For complete information about these systems and instruction on establishing recurring searches, see http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/Elecres/curraware.htm.

Please call 6-1080 if you need help with any aspect of the move.

People Are Talking

Library instructors have begun calling NIH staff who recently attended Library **seminars** to find out if the instruction has had an **impact on** their **work**. We'd like to share what your colleagues are saying.

Web of Science/Porpoise: *"has... free[d] me from having to rigorously search tables of contents from a variety of journals to keep current in my field.' '... a great help... as some meeting abstracts are included...'*

Full Text Electronic Journals: *'... very helpful to me in quickly finding articles... to keep me current.... Being able to access this information from my desk is so much more efficient and time-saving than going into the library to start a "cold" search.' '...very convenient and useful, and it saves my time.'*

and **the seminars** *'... it was a very worthwhile experience, and I have recommended the tutorial to several colleagues.' '...I enjoyed your presentation. It was clear, concise, and informative.'*

Check out our **Winter99 schedule** at http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/seminars/winter99seminars.htm and plan to attend a seminar soon! Seminars are open to all NIH staff. **No registration** is **required**. Please note that for hands-on sessions, seating is limited to eight. And if you cannot make one of our seminars, please feel free to **request a tutorial** at http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/Forms/Tutorial_Requests.html.